

Claims

What is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A tailgate assembly for a load carrier vehicle having a bed with spaced side walls and comprising:
 - a) left and right hinge assemblies extending from left and right ends of the tailgate assembly and left and right side wall ends of the vehicle bed, each hinge assembly comprising mating components respectively attached to the tailgate ends and to the sidewall ends and joined by a hinge rod, the hinge rod being readily removable by an operator as a whole upon a selected left or right hinge assembly;
 - b) top and bottom sets of latch assemblies extending from left and right ends of the tailgate assembly and left and right side wall ends of the vehicle bed, each latch assembly comprising mating components respectively attached to the tailgate end and to the side wall ends, the latch assembly being readily operable by an operator for selective vertical swinging of said tailgate as a whole upon a selected top or bottom set of latch assemblies;
 - c) wherein said tailgate is selectively able to swing horizontally left or right and swing vertically from top or bottom.

- 1 2. The tailgate assembly set forth in Claim 1 including a storage pocket
- 2 for receiving said hinge rod when said hinge rod is removed.
- 3 3. A tailgate assembly for a load carrying vehicle having a bed with
- 4 spaced side walls, and comprising:
- 5 a) left and right swinging mechanisms for selectively swinging
- 6 said tailgate in its entirety in a horizontal plane, and opening
- 7 left or right relations to the bed;
- 8 b) top and bottom swinging mechanisms for selectively swinging
- 9 said tailgate in its entirety in a vertical plane and opening either
- 10 from a top or a bottom relative to the bed.

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- 2 4. A dump trailer having a selectively swingable tailgate assembly and
- 3 comprising:
- 4 a) a dump bed having a flat bed front end wall and spaced left
- 5 and right side walls;
- 6 b) a tailgate assembly spanning an open rear end fo the dump
- 7 bed;
- 8 c) left and right hinge assemblies connecting the tailgate to the
- 9 dump bed, each hinge assembly having mating components
- 10 connected to the respective dump bed and tailgate, the mating
- 11 components being connected to each other by a readily
- 12 removable hinge pin so that when said right hinge pin is
- 13 inserted and the left hinge pin removed, the entire tailgate
- 14 swings horizontally from its right side and vice versa;
- 15 d) A sleeve for storage of each of said hinge pins when removed;
- 16 e) retainers on each side of the dump bed to hold the tailgate
- 17 open when swung open toward a selected side;
- 18 f) top and bottom latch assemblies extending from left and right
- 19 ends of the tailgate and connected to the dump bed, each
- 20 latch assembly including a receiver member and a locking
- 21 member and being readily operable by an operator for
- 22 selective vertical swinging of the entire tailgate upon a selected
- 23 top or bottom set of latch assemblies.

- 1 g) wherein the entire tail gate is selectively able to swing
- 2 horizontally left or right and swing vertically from top to bottom.
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